

Oyetola Pushes Nigeria's N1.83trn Blue Economy Drive On Global Stage

Nigeria's Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, on Tuesday took Nigeria's maritime investment campaign to the high-profile Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, where he canvassed stronger African partnerships on panel session titled to the high-profile maritime sovereignty and sustainable development. Oyetola spoke during a high-level panel session titled

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NADDC DG Drives FG's CNG Skills Programme For NYSC Members

As Nigeria intensifies efforts to deepen its clean energy transition and create sustainable jobs for young people, the

National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC), under the leadership of its Director-General,

OluwemimoOsanipin, has unlocked new pathway for youth empowerment and technical innovation as it drives President

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Wednesday, May 13th 2026

E - NEWSPAPER

NCAA Begins Digital Licensing For Pilots, Aviation Personnel July 2

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority has announced plans to commence a fully digital licensing and

certification process for pilots, engineers, medical personnel and other aviation

professionals from July 2, 2026. The initiative, unveiled during the Modern

Personnel Licensing and Certification Digital Transformation stakeholder engagement at

the Murtala Muhammed Airport, is designed to replace the manual and

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1,341 Killed In Nigeria's Road Crashes In Q1 2026 - NBS

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Abia Traffic Lights Improved Road Safety, Reduce FRSC Workload

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Capt Chris Najomo - Director General/CEO, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)

Lagos Bus Service Records 42,000 Daily Passengers Across 40 Routes

The Lagos State Government has disclosed that the Lagos Bus Services Limited currently transports more

than 42,000 passengers daily through approximately 1,000 bus trips across the state, as part of ongoing efforts to

strengthen affordable public transportation. The Commissioner for Transportation, OluwaseunOsiyemi,

made this known during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing commemorating the third year of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's second-term

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FG Postpones Eko Bridge Closure To May 19

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Local Transport News

Abia Traffic Lights Improved Road Safety, Reduce FRSC Workload

Culled

The installation of traffic lights at major intersections across Abia State has significantly improved traffic management, reduced accidents, and eased the workload of officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), according to officers and road users.

FRSC officials who spoke on the development said the traffic lights have transformed previously chaotic junctions into more orderly and safer areas for motorists and pedestrians.

One officer noted that the introduction of the traffic signals has made traffic control more efficient and less stressful for personnel.

According to the officer, road users now comply more with traffic regulations, reducing the need for manual traffic control at busy intersections.

Another FRSC official disclosed that accident rates at some monitored locations have dropped significantly since the installation of the lights.

He explained that no major accidents

had been recorded at certain junctions where crashes were once common occurrences.

Despite the improvements, officials identified some lingering challenges, including motorists who become confrontational when cautioned for traffic violations.

They also expressed concern over some government officials who reportedly ignore traffic signals, particularly red lights.

Find Full Story In The Link



The traffic lights

Dangote Targets \$50bn Refinery Valuation Before Stock Listing

Culled

President of the Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, is targeting a valuation of \$50bn for his Dangote Petroleum Refinery & Petrochemicals ahead of a planned stock market listing later this year, according to a report by Bloomberg. Dangote wants investors to know that the refinery, which commenced operations in 2024, is now valued at \$50bn. Bloomberg reports that the refinery company could sell up to a 10 per cent stake through the Nigerian stock exchange, implying a potential offering size of about \$5bn.

A senior executive at the Dangote Group confirmed that the projected valuation aligns with the company's current internal expectations but declined to provide additional details on the planned transaction.

The planned listing comes as stronger global crude oil prices and growing domestic fuel demand improve the commercial outlook for the 650,000 barrels-per-day refinery, which has increasingly become a dominant player in

Nigeria's downstream petroleum market.

Dangote is planning a landmark cross-border public offering of his \$20bn oil refinery in a move that could reshape capital markets across Africa and deepen regional investor participation, Bloomberg revealed on Monday.

The proposed listing, which will see shares of the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals floated on multiple African stock exchanges, is being positioned as the first pan-African initial public offering of its scale.

Details of the plan emerged recently following a meeting in Lagos involving Dangote and the chief executives of several African bourses under the umbrella of the African Securities Exchanges Association.

Chief Executive Officer of the Nairobi Securities Exchange, Frank Mwit, who attended the meeting, disclosed that discussions centred on structuring a cross-border listing framework that would allow investors across the continent to participate in the refinery's ownership.

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NADDC DG Drives FG's CNG Skills Programme For NYSC Members

Culled

As Nigeria intensifies efforts to deepen its clean energy transition and create sustainable jobs for young people, the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC), under the leadership of its Director-General, Oluwemimo Osanipin, has unlocked new pathway for youth empowerment and technical innovation as it drives President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's automotive and alternative energy agenda.

The council strengthened the commitment with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at integrating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) retrofitting training into the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Skill Acquisition and Entrepreneurship Development (SAED) programme.

The initiative, facilitated in collaboration with the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Youth Initiatives (Monitoring and Delivery), headed by Dr Titilope



NADDC drives CNG skills programme to NYSC members

Gbadamosi, NYSC, the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGi), is expected to equip corps members with practical technical skills in CNG vehicle conversion, maintenance and safety.

Speaking during the signing ceremony at the Federal Ministry of

Youth Development in Abuja, Osanipin described the initiative as a strategic intervention designed to prepare Nigerian youths for emerging opportunities within the country's rapidly expanding clean energy and automotive sectors.

According to him, the programme represents another bold step toward building a technically skilled workforce

capable of supporting Nigeria's transition to alternative fuel adoption following the removal of fuel subsidy.

He said, "This initiative is not just about training young Nigerians in CNG conversion; it is about creating sustainable opportunities within an evolving automotive ecosystem that is increasingly shifting towards cleaner and more affordable energy solutions."

Find Full Story In The Link

Local Transport News

Oyo FRSC Seeks Backing For Road Safety Policy Action

Culled

The Oyo State Sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) on Tuesday urged stakeholders to step up support and turn Nigeria's road safety policies into action.

The state Sector Commander, Corps Commander Kehinde Dahunsi, made the call in Ibadan at a workshop to commemorate the 2026 West African Road Safety Organisation (WARSO) Day.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the 2026 WARSO Day is themed "From Ratification to Action: Implementing the African Road Safety Charter".

Dahunsi said the sector command remained committed to safer roads through effective enforcement, public enlightenment campaigns, prompt rescue services, and collaboration with stakeholders.

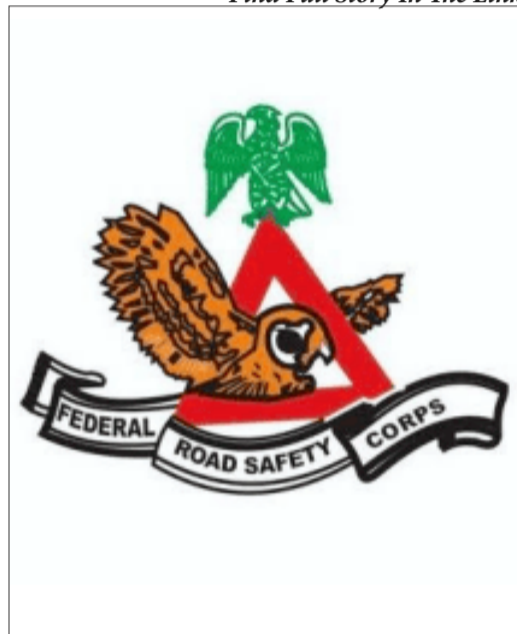
According to him, the efforts align with the provisions of the African Road Safety Charter, which seeks to create a

coordinated approach to reducing accidents and fatalities across West Africa.

He urged transport operators and private motorists to cooperate with field officers, embrace safer driving habits, and support ongoing initiatives to reduce crashes and promote a safer road culture.

"Road safety is a shared responsibility that cannot be left to the corps alone; public cooperation is, therefore, crucial to sustaining the gains already recorded in accident reduction," he said.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)



Governor Oborevwori

1,347 Killed In Nigeria's Road Crashes In Q1 2026 - NBS

Culled

No fewer than 1,347 persons lost their lives in road accidents across Nigeria in the first quarter of 2026, according to newly released data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The report, published on Tuesday, revealed that 2,720 road traffic crashes were recorded nationwide between January and March 2026, representing a 2.64 per cent increase compared to the 2,650 cases reported during the same period in 2025.

However, the figure showed a slight decline of 0.40 per cent when compared with the 2,731 crashes recorded in the fourth quarter of 2025.

According to the NBS, serious crashes accounted for the highest number of incidents during the period, with 1,761 cases recorded nationwide. Fatal crashes stood at 714, while 245 cases were categorised as minor accidents.

The statistics further showed that men accounted for the majority of fatalities recorded during the quarter. Out of the

1,347 deaths, 1,076 victims were male, representing 79.88 per cent, while 271 females accounted for 20.12 per cent.

Similarly, males dominated the number of injured victims. The report indicated that 6,547 men sustained injuries in various crashes, representing 76.35 per cent of total injured persons, while 2,028 women, representing 23.65 per cent, were also injured.

In total, 8,575 persons were injured in road accidents during the period under review.

The NBS report also showed a marginal increase in the number of vehicles involved in crashes nationwide. A total of 4,078 vehicles were involved in road accidents in Q1 2026, compared to 4,059 vehicles recorded in the previous quarter.

A breakdown by region revealed that the North-Central zone recorded the highest number of crashes with 752 cases, followed by the South-West with 699 incidents. The South-South recorded the least number of crashes at 137 cases.

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NCAA Begins Digital Licensing For Pilots, Aviation Personnel July 2

Culled

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority has announced plans to commence a fully digital licensing and certification process for pilots, engineers, medical personnel and other aviation professionals from July 2, 2026.

The initiative, unveiled during the Modern Personnel Licensing and Certification Digital Transformation stakeholder engagement at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, is designed to replace the manual and paper-based system that has long caused delays in the processing of aviation licences and certifications.

Director-General of Civil Aviation, Chris Najomo, described the move as a major milestone in the agency's reform agenda, noting that the aviation industry could no longer depend on outdated regulatory processes in a rapidly evolving global environment.

According to him, the digital platform will enable online applications for the issuance, renewal and conversion of licences, while applicants will also be able to monitor the progress of their applications in real time.



Capt Najomo

Najomo stated that the new system would incorporate biometric-backed credentials and QR-code verification technology to improve security, transparency and data integrity in line with international aviation standards.

He assured stakeholders that the era of prolonged waiting periods for licences would soon end, adding that the authority was determined to simplify and accelerate regulatory procedures across the sector.

The NCAA boss further disclosed that the digital licensing initiative forms the first phase of a broader transformation programme that would later cover Air Operator Certificate processing, Approved Training Organisations, Approved Maintenance Organisations, aerodrome certifications, air navigation service providers, ground handling companies and dangerous goods approvals.

Najomo revealed that the authority had already reduced the timeline for obtaining Air Operator Certificates from between one and two years to about six to eight months, with plans to further shorten the process to approximately 90 days through the new digital system.

He added that the platform would also support technical certification processes such as aircraft registration, airworthiness certification, maintenance programme approvals, export and import certification of airworthiness, supplemental type certification and monitoring of airworthiness directives.

In his remarks, Director of Airworthiness Standards, Godwin Balang, said the project would finally eliminate paper-based certification procedures within the aviation industry.

Balang noted that effective aviation oversight required modern digital systems capable of handling compliance, safety and operational efficiency, stressing that manual processes were no longer sustainable for the sector's growing demands.

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Local Transport News

NCAA Defends Air Peace Over Gatwick Disruption

Culled

Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA, Tuesday, defended Air Peace's handling of the recent flight disruption in Gatwick, London, saying the airline acted in the interest of safety.

Director General of the NCAA, Capt Chris Najomo, urged Nigerians not to condemn the country's airlines over operational disruptions.

Few days ago, some passengers, including Nollywood actress, Funke Akindele, had taken to X, formerly known as Twitter, to accuse the airline of leaving them stranded at Gatwick Airport without proper communication.

Akindele, in a post on X, wrote: "Air Peace, this is unacceptable. Passengers (including elderly people) have been stranded since 6:30AM at London Gatwick Airport with no proper communication. After hours of delay, we were told there was a bird strike and promised a hotel. Hours later, people are still sitting at baggage claim hungry, exhausted, and without their bags."

Meanwhile, Najomo disclosed that after the bird strike incident, the airline contacted Boeing, which advised that the flight should not be operated until all safety issues were resolved.

Addressing newsmen at the unveiling of Modern Personnel Licensing and Certification, MPLC, NCAA Digital Transformation Initiative PEL/MED Stakeholder Engagement, held at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, MMA, Lagos, he said: "I do not agree with using the word stranded."

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NCAA

Culled

The Federal Government has postponed the temporary closure of the Eko Bridge in Lagos earlier scheduled for May 11 to May 19 to allow for rehabilitation works on the busy corridor.

The Lagos Sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps disclosed this in a statement issued on Tuesday by the Sector Commander, Corps Commander Kehinde Hamzat.

According to Hamzat, the closure, which will affect the UBA–Apongbon–Ijora axis, will now commence at 12:00 midnight on Tuesday, May 19, following a strategic meeting between the FRSC and the Federal Controller of Works, Mr Olufemi Dare.

He explained that the decision to shift the date was reached after reviewing operational strategies and public safety considerations associated with the rehabilitation exercise.

Hamzat advised motorists to make use of alternative routes including UBA, Outer Marina, Third Mainland Bridge, Egbeleta and other adjoining roads during the period of the closure.

FG Postpones Eko Bridge Closure To May 19

He also urged road users to remain patient, obey traffic regulations and comply with diversion signs that would be installed across affected areas.

The FRSC boss further stated that personnel of the corps, alongside other traffic management agencies, would be strategically deployed to ensure smooth traffic flow and maintain safety throughout the duration of the repairs.

He appealed to members of the public to properly plan their journeys, comply with traffic instructions and avoid reckless driving around diversion points.

Hamzat added that the FRSC appreciated the understanding and cooperation of motorists as efforts continued to improve road infrastructure and enhance safer transportation across Lagos State.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Lagos Bus Service Records 42,000 Daily Passengers Across 40 Routes



Oluwaseun Osiyemi

The Lagos State Government has disclosed that the Lagos Bus Services Limited currently transports more than 42,000 passengers daily through approximately 1,000 bus trips across the state, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen affordable public transportation.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, made this known during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing commemorating the third year of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's second-term administration.

According to a statement issued by the Director of Public Affairs, Bolanle Ogunlola, the performance reflects the government's

commitment to modernising transportation and improving mobility across road, rail and water networks in the state.

The report presented at the briefing revealed that Lagos Bus Services Limited had transported a total of 60.88 million passengers between May 2019 and February 2025.

It added that the agency currently records daily patronage of over 42,266 passengers, supported by an average of 1,000 bus trips each day.

Osiyemi noted that fares charged by the state-run bus service remain relatively lower than those of informal transport operators, describing the system as a major tool for affordable mobility in Lagos.

He stated that the bus network now covers all five IBILE divisions and 13 local government areas, including Ibeju-Lekki, Ojo and Ikorodu.

According to him, Lagos Bus Services Limited operates the widest public bus network coverage in the state, with operations spanning 21 corridors and

more than 40 service routes supported by six depots and a fleet of 300 buses.

The commissioner said the achievements align with the administration's THEMES+ Agenda aimed at developing an integrated, safe, affordable and efficient transportation system for residents.

Osiyemi also reiterated the government's commitment to expanding infrastructure across road, rail and water transport systems to improve connectivity throughout the state.

The ministry further highlighted achievements recorded in the rail sector, noting that more than 3.5 million passengers have used the Blue Rail Line, while operations on the Red Line Rail have been strengthened with additional coaches to reduce commuter waiting time.

It added that work is ongoing on the Blue Line Phase II extension from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko, alongside junction improvement projects at Toyin Street, Opebi Road, Allen Avenue and other strategic corridors.

The report also stated that intelligent traffic management systems have been deployed in Ikeja, Lekki, Ikoyi, Surulere, Epe, Gbagada and Victoria Island to ease vehicular movement.

On water transportation, the ministry disclosed that about two million passengers now use Lagos waterways monthly, aided by ferry expansion projects, safety campaigns, life jacket distribution and the OMI-EKO electric ferry initiative.

Osiyemi said additional projects planned for 2026 include the Green and Purple Rail Lines, the Lekki Water Taxi initiative, AI-driven driver simulators and expanded smart mobility systems.

Also speaking at the briefing, the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, said the reforms demonstrate that transportation development in Lagos extends beyond rail projects and road infrastructure.

He added that the administration remains focused on building a more connected and technology-driven transportation system across the state.

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QUALITY EMULSION

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Oyetola Pushes Nigeria's N1.83trn Blue Economy Drive On Global Stage

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Nigeria's Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, on Tuesday took Nigeria's maritime investment campaign to the high-profile Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, where he canvassed stronger African partnerships on maritime sovereignty and sustainable development.

Oyetola spoke during a high-level panel session titled "Blue Economy, Maritime Sovereignty and Sustainable Valorization," alongside France's Minister of the Sea and Fisheries, Catherine Chabaud, and other leading maritime stakeholders across Africa.

The summit, jointly hosted by William Ruto and Emmanuel Macron, drew African leaders, policymakers, investors and development partners to deliberate on innovation, economic growth and strategic continental partnerships.

Nigeria's President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, also participated in the gathering, which



Oyetola

observers described as a major diplomatic and economic engagement aimed at deepening Africa - France cooperation. The event, held under the theme "Africa - France Partnerships for Innovation and Growth," is regarded as historic, being the first Africa-aimed at deepening France summit hosted in an English-speaking, non-Francophone African country.

At the summit, Oyetola showcased ongoing reforms and investments by the Federal Government targeted at unlocking the enormous potential of Nigeria's marine and blue economy sector. The statement signed by Dr. Bolaji Akinola,

Special Adviser to the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy said Central to the reform efforts is the creation of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy in August 2023, a move the government said has accelerated policy direction and institutional coordination in the sector.

According to the Ministry, one of the major milestones recorded since its establishment is the development of Nigeria's first National Policy on Marine and Blue Economy, expected to provide a strategic framework for sustainable growth and investment expansion. The Ministry also disclosed that agencies under its supervision generated a record N1.83 trillion revenue in the 2025 fiscal year, reflecting growing economic activity within the maritime sector.

It further noted that the Federal Government has approved a comprehensive port modernization and upgrade programme aimed at attracting larger vessels, creating jobs and strengthening Nigeria's position as the leading maritime hub in West and Central Africa.

[Find Full Story In The Link](#)

NRC Moves 176,820 Tonnes In Apapa Port Rail In Q1



Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC)

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) said cargo movement via rail at the Lagos seaports increased to 176,820 tonnes with a total of 198 freight trips in the first quarter (Q1).

The figures, contained in the NRC's first quarter operational report for Q1, showed that the trial cargo evacuation was driven largely by freight operations linked to APM Terminals and ENL Consortium terminals at Apapa port.

According to the report, APM Terminals alone accounted for 129,240 tonnes of cargo movement, while ENL terminals recorded 47,580 tonnes.

The NRC operated a total of 198 freight trips, comprising 122 standard gauge freight

movements linked to APMT, six narrow gauge freight operations and 70 freight services for ENL terminals. The NRC report showed that APM Terminals moved 38 freight services in January, 34 in February, and 50 in March, which it stated emerged as the busiest month.

In volume terms, APM Terminals handled 34,920 tonnes in January, 34,840 tonnes in February, and 55,640 tonnes in March, bringing the quarterly total to 125,400 tonnes under the standard gauge operation.

On the narrow gauge, freight services moved were 3,840 tonnes within the same period, raising the cumulative cargo throughput linked to the terminal to 129,240 tonnes.

The NRC report gave a breakdown of the operators utilising the rail freight corridor, noting that Eromma emerged as one of the leading users of the service with 32 freight trips and 28,280 tonnes moved during the quarter. APM Terminals followed closely with

20 freight services and 24,000 tonnes, while CCECC Track Access recorded 18 freight movements with 20,600 tonnes evacuated by rail.

Other notable operators included Depotter with 14,680 tonnes, Ajuba Containers with 13,640 tonnes and Starlink with 9,120 tonnes.

The NRC data also showed that ENL terminals, under the standard gauge freight services, handled a total of 70 freight trips and moved 47,580 tonnes of cargo between January and March. ENL recorded the highest volume in January with 16,500 tonnes moved, while February and March recorded 15,780 tonnes and 15,300 tonnes respectively.

The report showed that PS Gypsum dominated rail cargo movement through the terminal with 54 freight trips and 28,440 tonnes moved, while Bueno Gypsum accounted for 16 freight trips and 19,140 tonnes within the review period.

The report stated that the steady performance reflects the growing

acceptance of rail as a viable alternative for cargo evacuation, especially for bulk cargo importers.

Industry stakeholders have repeatedly called for a multimodal transport system for cargo evacuation to decongest the ports, reduce logistics cost and cargo delays, prevent road deterioration, as 90 per cent of containers are transported via trucks.

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Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway To Lift Price Ceiling By 20%

Culled

The Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway operator announced that it will raise its official ticket price ceiling by 20 percent starting May 26, marking a significant adjustment to fares on one of the country's busiest rail corridors.

The increase will affect high-speed train services operating on both the Beijing-Shanghai and Hefei-Bengbu railway lines, according to a statement released by Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway Co.

The company stated that this move aims to enhance a market-oriented pricing system, enabling ticket prices to vary based on passenger demand. Officials stated that the revised pricing mechanism aims to provide a more accurate representation of travel patterns and operational conditions.



Tickets under the new pricing structure are available for purchase on the official 12306 platform starting today. During the initial phase of this adjustment, actual

ticket prices will remain the same. Currently, the most expensive second-class seat on a high-speed train between Beijing and Shanghai is priced at 673

yuan (US\$99). With the 20 percent increase to the price ceiling, the maximum fare for these seats could exceed 800 yuan, surpassing the cost of some discounted

flight tickets between the two cities. "The goal is to better meet the diverse travel needs of passengers and to improve the efficiency of ticket resource

allocation," the company stated.

"The adjustment ensures that published prices more accurately reflect the relationship between market supply and demand."

The railway operates with a dual pricing system: the "published price" and the "execution price." The published price serves as the official base rate and acts as a strict maximum limit. The execution price is the actual amount a passenger pays after discounts.

Under the new rules, the railway will offer varying discounts based on the season, day of the week, travel time, and train speed.

Passengers can expect higher prices for popular trains during peak hours. Slower trains with more stops or those running during off-peak periods will offer deeper discounts. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

Culled

Georgia is launching a large-scale overhaul of its railway system aimed at boosting capacity, efficiency, and regional connectivity, Economy Minister Mariam Kvrivishvili has said.

"We are embarking on a historic renewal of Georgian Railways –

a process that will fundamentally transform the company," Kvrivishvili said during a presentation of the reform plan.

The strategy focuses on three key directions: infrastructure development, strengthening freight transport, and

Georgia Launches Railway Modernisation Plan - Kvrivishvili

modernizing passenger services, combining operational and infrastructure upgrades into a single system.

The minister said the company's financial performance has improved, with an optimization effect exceeding ₾230 million over the past year and net profit rising to 30%. Operating profit margins increased from 25% to 36%.

Rail capacity has also expanded, with throughput on the main line up 30% and transit time across the country reduced by 20%.

Kvrivishvili said Georgia plans to purchase 50 new locomotives and 1,500 wagons, with more than ₾1 billion in investment. The upgrades are expected to cut transit time from 24 hours to 12 hours and double overall transport capacity.

Passenger services are also set for expansion, with new trains planned to increase ridership and improve travel speed and comfort.

Major infrastructure works are underway. Rehabilitation of the Tbilisi-Batumi railway and Tbilisi-Akhaltshikhe railway lines is expected to be completed by August 2026, reducing travel

time to Batumi to around four hours and halving journey times to Akhaltshikhe.

The historic Borjomi-Bakuriani railway line is also set for rehabilitation, with completion planned for winter 2027.

Kvrivishvili linked the railway upgrades to broader regional connectivity plans, including the Anaklia deep-sea port project, which she describes as a key component of Georgia's logistics network. Construction of connecting road and rail infrastructure is expected to begin soon.

She added that growing global demand for alternative trade routes has increased the importance of the Middle Corridor, positioning Georgia as a key transit partner between Europe and Asia.

The minister said modernization of major railway stations across the country is already underway, aimed at aligning infrastructure with modern standards and passenger needs.

The minister said the company's financial performance has improved, with an optimization effect exceeding ₾230 million over the past year and net profit rising to 30%. Operating profit margins increased from 25% to 36%. [Find Full Story In The Link](#)

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General News

Medbury, BAT Nigeria Push Psychosocial Well-being As Key To Workplace Safety

Culled: Leading corporate and occupational health provider, Medbury Healthcare, has called on organisations to prioritise psychosocial wellbeing as a critical component of workplace health, warning that unmanaged stress and poor workplace culture could negatively impact employee productivity, safety and overall organisational performance.

The call was made during a workplace health session organised in collaboration with British American Tobacco Nigeria, also known as BAT Nigeria, at the company's Ibadan factory to commemorate the 2026 World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

The event, held on April 28, aligned with this year's global theme, "Good psychosocial working environments: A pathway to thriving workers and strong organizations," championed by the International Labour Organization.

Speaking during the session, Dr. Uba Onyenefa, Med-Advisory Manager and ICM Operations Manager at Medbury Healthcare, stressed the strong relationship between mental and physical health, noting that prolonged workplace stress often manifests through physical



Medbury, BAT push for psychosocial well-being for workplace safety

conditions.

According to him, "Unmanaged stress can present itself in physical symptoms such as insomnia, chronic headaches and musculoskeletal disorders. Organisations must understand that employee wellbeing goes beyond physical safety."

He also reiterated the importance of providing employees with access to mental health support systems, including

confidential counselling and professional assistance platforms.

The interactive session brought together employees and senior management of BAT Nigeria to discuss practical ways of addressing workplace mental health risks, including stress, burnout, ineffective communication and workplace pressure.

A panel discussion featuring Manufacturing Manager, Waqas Khan; Head of Supply

Chain, Dele Alabi; Senior HR Business Partner, Operations, Monisola Adebayo; and Dr. Onyenefa, examined strategies for fostering healthier and safer work environments.

Speaking on the realities of operating in a high-performance manufacturing environment, Khan emphasised the need for realistic planning and transparent communication between employees and supervisors.

Find Full Story In The Link

Unity Bank Disburses N500m To Support Smaller Businesses

Culled:

Unity Bank has disbursed over N500 million to empower small-scale traders and shop owners across Nigeria through its loan product called Shop Collateralised Facility, SHOCOF, as part of efforts to promote Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) and strengthen support for operators in the informal sector.

Originally introduced as a targeted intervention for traders in Southeast Nigeria, Unity Bank said SHOCOF has so far gained traction and broad acceptance for its flexibility and tailored structure, prompting the Bank to expand the product nationwide.

Under the initiative, eligible customers can use their shops as collateral to access financing.

The product simplifies access to credit by leveraging the commercial value and stability associated with fixed business locations, enabling traders to secure funds without the stringent collateral requirements associated with traditional lending structures.

The facility provides working capital support that enables beneficiaries to restock goods, increase inventory turnover, improve cash flow, and respond more effectively to market demand.

With more than 80 per cent of Nigeria's small businesses operating informally and relying on personal savings and informal borrowing, Unity Bank said SHOCOF was developed to bridge the gap through a lending model tailored to the realities of market traders and small shop owners.

Speaking on the impact of the product, the Group Head, Risk Management, Unity Bank, Olusegun Oladipo, said the Bank recognised the need for financing solutions aligned with the realities of informal sector businesses. "SHOCOF was created to address a critical gap within the small business ecosystem by providing access to credit through a structure that traders can satisfactorily meet without much ado.

Find Full Story In The Link

Tinubu Approves Nigeria's Hosting Of 2026 CAF Awards



Tinubu approves Nigeria's hosting of 2026 CAF Awards

Culled:

According to a statement released by the Nigeria Football Federation on Tuesday, the approval came during the ongoing Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, following a meeting between Tinubu and CAF President Patrice

Motsepe.

Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu; NFF President Ibrahim Gusau; former NFF President and Special Adviser to the CAF President Amaju Pinnick; as well as CAF Acting General Secretary Samson Adamu

were present at the meeting.

In the statement, the NFF confirmed that the 48th CAF Ordinary General Assembly would take place in October this year, bringing together top football administrators from across the continent.

"The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, has approved Nigeria's proposed hosting of the 48th Ordinary General Assembly of the Confederation of African Football, as well as this year's CAF Awards Ceremony," the statement read.

"The 48th CAF Ordinary General Assembly will take place in October this year."

The CAF Ordinary General Assembly traditionally brings

together presidents of CAF's 54 member associations, representatives of the six zonal unions, and senior football officials from across the continent.

The CAF Awards ceremony remains African football's flagship event, celebrating the continent's top performers in an atmosphere of glitz, glamour, and prestige.

The most recent CAF Awards ceremony took place in Rabat, Morocco, on November 19, 2025, with the hosts dominating several major categories.

Morocco's Achraf Hakimi succeeded Ademola Lookman as African Men's Player of the Year after helping Paris Saint-Germain win the UEFA Champions League and Ligue 1 title.

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World Bank

FG, World Bank In Talks Over Second-Largest \$1.25bn Loan

Culled:

The Federal Government has stepped up engagement with the World Bank for a fresh \$1.25bn loan to support economic reforms, job creation, and competitiveness, as findings by The PUNCH showed that the facility has reached a critical stage in the lender's approval process.

The proposed loan, titled Nigeria Actions for Investment and Jobs Acceleration, is expected to be presented for approval on June 26, 2026, about six months and 21 days before the January 16, 2027, presidential election, according to the revised timetable of the Independent

National Electoral Commission.

If approved, the loan will rank as the second-largest single World Bank facility secured under President Bola Tinubu, behind only the \$1.5bn Reforms for Economic Stabilisation to Enable Transformation Development Policy Financing approved in June 2024.

At an exchange rate of N1,361.4 to the dollar, the proposed \$1.25bn facility translates to about N1.70tn, showing the scale of external financing being pursued by the Federal Government amid ongoing economic reforms.

If approved and fully disbursed without any delay, the proposed \$1.25bn World Bank loan, equivalent to about N1.70tn

at an exchange rate of N1,361.4/\$, will raise Nigeria's external debt from N74.43tn (\$51.86bn) as of December 31, 2025, to at least N76.13tn (\$53.11bn).

The country's total public debt would also rise from N159.28tn to at least N160.98tn. In dollar terms, Nigeria's total public debt could rise from \$110.97bn to about \$112.22bn if the facility is eventually approved and fully disbursed.

Details of the facility were contained in a World Bank Programme Information Document obtained by The PUNCH on Monday, which showed that the loan has progressed beyond the initial

concept and appraisal phases.

Crucially, The PUNCH confirmed that the operation is now at the decision meeting stage of the World Bank's project cycle, a point at which the lender's management reviews the final appraisal package and determines whether the project should proceed to the Board of Executive Directors for approval.

This stage typically comes after appraisal and negotiations have been substantially concluded, meaning that key policy actions, financing terms, and reform commitments have already been agreed in principle between the borrower and the World Bank team.

Find Full Story In The Link

N-BA Set To Strengthen Nigeria-UK Bilateral Relationship

The Nigeria-Britain Association (N-BA) is poised to strengthen the existing bilateral relationship between the country and the United Kingdom.

The President of the association, Ademola Sanya stated this over the weekend in Lagos after his election at the 57th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Apart from strengthening the existing relationship between the

two countries, Sanya also promised to build stronger member participation and commitment and expansion of the association's community through increased engagement and institutional growth initiatives.

He mentioned these as the key focus areas that would shape the direction of the association under his leadership.

Also, Sanya reiterated the continued

readiness of the association in serving as a strategic platform for fostering relationships, dialogue and partnerships between both countries across business, diplomacy, culture, education, and professional sectors. He further commended the immediate past President, Sola Oyetayo, for his dedication and contributions to strengthening the association's institutional framework and strategic direction.

The AGM, which saw strong member participation across the association, provided an opportunity to review the N-BA's activities, assess institutional progress, and outlined strategic priorities for the 2026/2027 tenure.

In addition to the Executive Committee, 13 members were elected into the Governing Council to support the leadership in advancing the strategic objectives and institutional vision of the association.

Find Full Story In The Link

DRIVING SCHOOLS AND SAFETY ALLIANCE AFRICA - DSSAA

DSSAA INITIATIVES AND CAUSES

1. African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP) - This will be an online Academy for the training of Driving School Instructors and Road Safety professionals.
2. Africa Road Transport Safety Summit and Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO) - The largest gathering of Researchers and Industry Leaders in Road Transport Safety featuring exhibitions of technology devices and Innovations.
3. Africa Safe School Volunteer Project (ASSVP) - A social responsibility project that members of DSSAA will get directly involved in their various countries which includes volunteering to control traffic and help Children cross the Road during school hours in schools, funding installation of STOP Road signs and marking of zebra crossings at school Intersections, as well as carrying out the training of children on Road Safety practices in schools.
4. Africa Road Safety Partnerships and Research board (ARSPARB)- A hub for the advancement of partnerships with development agencies, National Governments and corporations as well as a Research Faculty for Road Safety Research Projects.

About DSSAA

Driving Schools and Safety Alliance Africa - DSSAA is Africa's premier Professional Association of Driving School Owners, Instructors, Driver Assessors and Road Safety professionals.

It is registered in the Gambia and UK with National offices in all the Capital cities in Africa.

DSSAA aims to bring all the critical stakeholders together to build the capacity of Driving School operators and support Road Safety through advocacy, public education, lobbying, fund raising, training and certification.

We are the promoters of various Road Transport Safety initiatives and programmes among which are the African Institute of Driving Instructors and Road Safety professionals (ADRIP), Africa Road Transport Safety Exhibition (ARTSS EXPO), Africa Safe school volunteer project (ASSVP) and the Africa Road Safety Partnership and Research board (ARSPARB) domiciled in our Overseas Office in Bournemouth United Kingdom.

Membership is open to Road Safety advocates all over the world.

DSSAA

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



GRANTS

There are available grants from National Governments, multinational corporations and NGOS.

The leadership of DSSAA is committed to pursuing these grants at the African Union Secretariat, Ecowas NGO Roundtable and other multilateral Initiatives and making them available to Members only.

CAPACITY DEV.

Membership gives you access to our robust learning portal where you get latest Road Safety Research, scholarship opportunities and internships. Admission to ADPRIP is at a discounted rate. Our interfaces with Government authorities gives you Industry advantages.

NETWORKING

Your participation in our community platforms opens up new business relationship opportunities with operators, Regulators, Vendors, Researchers and Investors across the globe as membership is open worldwide.

GOOD BUSINESS

PROFILE/LEVERAGE

You are entitled to use DSSAA Member logo on your website, office branding, Letterhead and Business Cards.

Our community development projects such as the Safe School Volunteer Project as well as our Road Safety advocacy activities creates a positive brand footprint for all our Members and Affiliates. Membership of DSSAA elevates your Corporate ethical persona.

OTHER BENEFITS

DIGITAL MARKETING

DSSAA will promote your business from time to time on our growing social media handles.

JOB FAIR

Your Road Safety organization or Driving School qualifies as a Job Fair Agent. You earn money from this.

HONORARIUM

You earn money from time to time facilitating Road Safety Courses and Seminars online and physically in different Countries.

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